

AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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Agawam Soccer 14

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION

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Supt.: Bomb threat protocol followed

Administrators will meet with School Committee to discuss response, public notification

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Correspondent

School officials will meet with members of the Agawam School Committee to address protocols for notifying the public, specifical-

ly parents, when there is a threat in any of the school buildings.

Last Wednesday, an Agawam student, Ayman Sara, 18, was arrested and charged with making a bomb threat and disturbing a school. He was arraigned in Westfield District Court last Friday and was released on his own recogni-

zance. His next court date is Dec. 8, when he will appear for a pre-trial hearing.

Sara is barred from all school in Hampden County and will have a mental health evaluation.

Over the weekend, criticisms arose among parents and some members of the Agawam School

Committee because most parents did not receive a notification about the incident until reading of it in the media on Saturday morning, three days after the incident.

Following the published reports, Sapelli did make a phone call that went out to all parents of school students. The call did not discuss

the incident at length, but confirmed there was an incident and the process for how it was being handled.

"Due to certain legalities, including the fact it is an ongoing investigation," said Sapelli. "The school district is very limited in

Please see BOMB, page 10



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

First Sgt. George LaPierre lays a wreath on one of the war memorials on the Veterans Green during Agawam's commemoration of Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

Residents challenged to help veterans

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

The challenge has been laid out to the people of the Agawam.

On Tuesday morning at the Veterans Day Ceremony held on the Veterans Green in front of Phelps Elementary School, Veterans Agent Richard Gerard laid out a major challenge to people in attendance, saying it

is time to do more than just thank a veteran.

"Thank you is great," said Gerard. "The veterans really appreciate your thanks. But it is time for us to do more for them."

Gerard says there are still many veterans from World War II and Vietnam all the way to the current conflict in Afghanistan that are returning home to the United States and are suffering, whether it is from mental scars from the conflict, or need logistical or

finance support.

"Our focus should be how we can help," said Gerard. "There are many great veterans out there that need your help. They are some veterans that are suffering on daily basis. Think about what you can do to help them."

Gerard suggested calling his office or calling Veterans Affairs to get involved, or referring veterans in need of help to call the VA.

Please see VETERANS, page 13

Mayor proposes tax hike

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Correspondent

The Agawam City Council will be asked to adopt a residential tax factor of 0.823463 for fiscal 2015.

In trying keep with having one of the lowest tax rates in Western Massachusetts, Mayor Richard Cohen is proposing the tax factor with a shift of 1.48, lower than in recent years.

Under the proposed shift, Cohen said the tax rate would be set at \$15.74 per \$1,000 valuation of real property. That represents an increase of 19 cents over the \$15.55 residents were charged in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

The commercial and industrial properties would have a tax rate of \$28.29. The fiscal 2014 rate was \$27.93. According to information provided by the assessor's office, the typical residential property would only see a \$40 increase in its property taxes. The average commercial property owner would see a bigger increase, at \$109. An industrial property would increase on average by \$165.

"I think it is in the best interest of the town to adopt a tax shift of 1.48," said Cohen. "It would produce a minimal increase for the residents."

There will be a public hearing on Monday night, Nov. 17, for the city council to hear from property owners, who will be asked to pay for the increase in their property tax.

There are other options available for the councilors to consider, including a tax shift of 1.47. That increase in taxes would be a bit more balanced, with resi-

Please see TAX HIKE, page 10

Cinema online fundraiser meets \$40K goal

By Michael J. Ballway
Turley Publications Staff Writer

In the movies, it would have come down to the final seconds.

Fortunately for theater owner Kimberly Wheeler's nerves, in real life "Save the Agawam Cinemas" met its \$40,000 fundraising goal on Monday, with five days to

spare. She's still taking donations, but now she knows for sure that she'll be able to reopen the Southgate Plaza theater at full capacity, with digital projectors in both auditoriums.

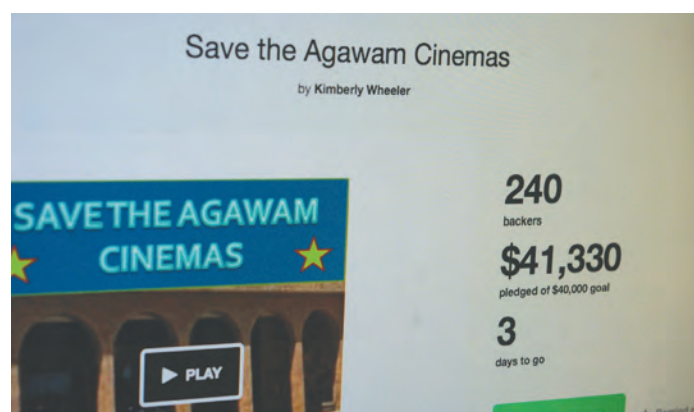
"I was beside myself" with joy, Wheeler said when asked how she felt Monday. "I try to stay optimistic and keep telling myself, 'we're going to do it, we're going to do it.' The bigger donations all of a sudden took us from 80 percent to 98 percent. Then it was just watching the clock tick."

More than 200 individual donors signed up to support the theater on Kickstarter.com, a crowd-sourcing website. One supporter, Laura Bucalo, said Tuesday that she was glad to hear it had succeeded.

"I think it's great for our community," Bucalo said. "Everybody pulled together. It's something in Agawam that people supported."

Bucalo said she remembered riding her bike to the cinema when she was growing up in the 1990s,

Please see CINEMA, page 10



Turley Publications photo by Michael J. Ballway

"Save the Agawam Cinemas" met its Kickstarter fundraising goal earlier this week.



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Library juried art show reception this Friday

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library Sixth Open Juried Art Show is on display from November 3-28 at the Agawam Public Library. Of the 103 entries, 90 works were accepted. This regional show is represented by 83 artists from 36 towns and cities in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Robert J. O'Brien and Robert K. Carsten juried and judged the entries. They stated "...we certainly had our work cut out for us. We were treated to a wonderful selection of fine artwork. Kudos go to the participating artists who really made us think and analyze the diverse styles, techniques and insightful approaches to the bountiful palette of artwork set before us. Each category had many strong submissions, which made choosing award winning works a challenge."

A reception and awards night will be held in the library, at 750 Cooper St., Agawam, on Friday, Nov. 14, 7-9 p.m., with music and light refreshments. To reach the library, call 413-789-1550.

The awards consist of Best in Show; first, second and third place in Acrylics, Oils, Watercolors, Pastels and Other Media (pencil drawing, charcoals, pen and inks, block prints, collage, encaustics); 10 honorable mentions; and the artists' choice.

Agawam artists whose work is displayed include Marilyn Gabel ("Rock Center Rocks II," second place, other media); Robin Jen-

sen ("Brewster Store," watercolor); Michele LaPalme ("Dusk," colored pencil); Gloria McLellan ("Green Cap," pastel); Lyle Pearsons ("Night Light," oil); Alexandra Walters ("Turban Squash," colored pencil); and David Wright ("Encounter at the Bridge," third place, acrylic).

For more information about the Friends of the Agawam Public Library, an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the town library with fundraisers, workshops, educational activities and volunteer services, write to Friends of the Agawam Public Library, P. O. Box 478, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0478.



Submitted photo
Some of the entries in the Open Juried Art Show now on display at the Agawam Public Library.

Library hosts teen programs Monday

Teens in grades 7 through 12 are invited to an evening of board games, knitting for charity and chocolate fondue on Monday, Nov. 17, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library.

Basic knitting instructions and some sup-

plies will be available, but those attending are encouraged to bring any they may have. To register for this program, stop by the library, call 413-789-1550, ext. 3, or visit agawamlibrary.org.



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DiSanti says election not well publicized

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

Samuel DiSanti was disappointed with the result of last week's election, as he was defeated for a second time by incumbent state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick.

DiSanti was attempting to unseat Boldyga after challenging him in 2012. He thanked those who came out to the polls and voted for him this year. He believes he got his message across to those he was able to reach. However, he blamed a lack of promotion in the election for the 3rd Hampden District, which consists of Agawam, Southwick and Granville.

He was unhappy one of the local television news stations did not schedule a debate for candidates for the 3rd Hampden District. He did participate in one scheduled television debate on Oct. 16.

DiSanti was invited to participate in a debate sponsored by the West of the River Chamber of Commerce, but was unable to participate due to a family matter. The debate, which included candidates for the senate seat in the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire District, went on as scheduled and Boldyga answered questions on his own.

He was unhappy with how the chamber treated his absence, saying he would not be present, but failing to specify the reason.

"I informed the chamber three days prior I would not be present because of a family matter," said DiSanti. "The chamber could have informed the public of my reason since I gave it to them."

DiSanti believes the lack of exposure for his platform hurt him with the voting population. In last week's election, Boldyga received 9,398 votes to DiSanti's 4,440 votes. Boldyga had 68 percent of the vote to DiSanti's 32 percent. DiSanti received 38 percent of the vote during the 2012 campaign, his first for public office.

He also claims several press releases he sent to local media outlets were not printed.

"Agawam is a lost town to the local media," said DiSanti.

DiSanti did not return calls to the Agawam Advertiser News seeking comment the day after the election, but in an email to the paper this week, he thanked his supporters for their hard work on this year's campaign, and complimented Boldyga on his victory.

"I congratulate Nick Boldyga on a third term as our state representative of the 3rd Hampden District and wish him well," said DiSanti.

DiSanti did not say whether he was considering running again for state representative or for a different office in the future. DiSanti is a retired postal worker.

Proposed subcommittee would review golf course business practices

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

As debate continues on how to approach improvements in the business practices of the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, action was taken by the administrative and legislative bodies late last week.

The Agawam City Council may vote on an amended version of a resolution to investigate the golf course on Monday night.

The "investigation" label will be removed from the resolution, and replaced with an ad hoc subcommittee of the Agawam City Council. However, language in the amended version has also been changed by Mayor Richard Cohen and submitted to the council for consideration.

Council President Christopher Johnson said last Wednesday night the ad hoc subcommittee would consist of five members, three of them city councilors, a member of the Golf Commission, and the general manager of the golf course.

Johnson also said the subcommittee would be responsible for going through the finances with the golf course management and prepare an improvement plan to be followed.

Cohen, on Friday, amended the ad hoc proposal to say charge would be making recommendations to the mayor instead of an improvement plan.

"The golf course management falls under the mayor's office," said Cohen.

Councilor Paul Cavallo said he would be happy to be part of any solution to addressing concerns over the golf course in a way that is peaceful.

"I like this amended version," said Cavallo. "It's toned down. It uses the word review instead of investigation. It makes more sense. We want to help the golf course and improve the situation."

Council Vice President Dennis Perry agreed. He is not

looking to go on a witch hunt or attack anyone. But he wants to see improvements made.

Councilor George Bitzas suggested having the auditor, an employee of the council, be part of the subcommittee. Johnson said the auditor would be consulted and called on to provide information, but should not be a voting member of the subcommittee. The council reached a consensus, though did not take a formal vote, they wanted to see the subcommittee concept go forward.

The council met last Wednesday night, Aug. 5. Cohen said he had received the amended version at 4 p.m. that day, and he and the solicitor did not have the opportunity to review it or sign off on it prior to the council meeting.

Cohen said Friday morning he had reviewed the amendment proposing the sub-committee and suggests making it a seven-member committee. Three councilors would be appointed by the council president. The golf course manager, a member of the Golf Commission, a member of the town administration and a private citizen would all be appointed by the mayor.

Prior to making these suggestions, the mayor had also offered to place a member of the city council on the Golf Commission, an idea rejected by Johnson and by the council member Cohen suggested, Gina Letellier.

The city council put the investigation proposal back on the table following the discussion at their meeting. They will take it back off the table and evaluate the amendment proposal formally at their Nov. 17 meeting.

In related news, Cohen has requested \$22,245 in free cash to make up for the shortfall in the fiscal 2014 budget for the golf course. He has also made a request for an amount not to exceed \$91,000 from free cash to fund the golf course budget for the remainder of fiscal 2015. The fund request would be reduced when the golf course resumes business in the spring, but is necessary now to balance the current budget so the town is certified by the Department of Revenue.

Feeding Hills veteran completes Legion College

INDIANAPOLIS —They came here from nearly every state not knowing what to expect. They were challenged from the beginning to demonstrate creativity, leadership and innovation. They are the 57 members of the American Legion College Class of 2014, among them, Jodie L. Pajak, a member of American Legion Post 338 in Feeding Hills.

Members of the class of dedicated Legionnaires completed a six-day course that saw them lay a solid foundation for becoming leaders in the American Legion at the post and state levels. Videos and interactive discussions were used to stimulate thought and creative thinking. Working with their peers from around the country provided everyone with an opportunity to experience various challenges and find successful solutions. They were also provided the instruction and tools to construct resolutions for American Legion activities at their respective posts for presentation at a mock

department meeting.

The National American Legion College is designed to reinforce a volunteer's leadership, management mentorship and communication skills. This helps prepare young members of the American Legion to lead the nation's largest war-time veterans organization on the local and state level. The importance of mentorship for both other members and special groups in the community was a central point to several of the activities for the class.

"You are here because your departments believe in you," American Legion National Commander Mike Helm told the graduating class. "Some in your department believe you have the ability to provide positive leadership for your American Legion. By completing the challenging tasks placed before you over the last week, you have proven that your departments were wise in their judgment."

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Opinion

Six Flags rides off with thanks

The rides are closed down and the traffic on Main Street has thinned out, but Six Flags New England has kept itself in the news the past few weeks — for all the right reasons.

The amusement park in the southeast corner of Agawam, which ended its season on Nov. 2, has been an active corporate citizen over the past few months. Just last week, Six Flags unveiled the new information kiosk it built on the Agawam Riverwalk multi-purpose trail, off River Road. The town's planning director called this "a tremendous asset to the Riverwalk."

Earlier this month, the park collected \$10,000 worth of toys for low-income families. These were presented, along with a check for an additional \$5,000, to the YMCA of Greater Springfield at the start of this month.

Perhaps Six Flags' longest-lasting contribution to the community this year is its sponsorship of the YMCA's Agawam Wellness and Program Family Center, which opened this fall at 63 Springfield St.

At the YMCA's grand opening on Oct. 30, CEO Kirk Smith spoke about several key donors, political leaders and business partners that welcomed the Springfield-based organization into town and helped establish the "express" Y in Agawam.

When it came time to thank Six Flags — which sponsored the wellness center in the new YMCA — Smith was unstinting in his gratitude.

"They adopted us," he said.

Agawam has had a rollercoaster relationship — pardon the expression — with Six Flags, and Riverside Park before it, over the years. Hosting a regional attraction like an amusement park places stress on local roads, utilities and public safety departments, not to mention the inconvenience for neighboring residents. It's the same story on the other side of town, just over the bridge from the Big E in West Springfield.

But as we close the book on another season of traffic jams, parking hassles and medical emergencies, let's say thanks to Six Flags for the good that it does.



The subtle shades of oak

When my husband and I were dating we always took a trip to Maine in early November. Although peak leaf peeping had passed I still enjoyed a colorful, albeit more subtle, ride north. I reminisce on those weekends as I savor the distant hills here in town. One way to describe them would be through the Crayola crayon box of my youth, with names like mahogany, sepia, burnt sienna, raw sienna and raw umber. To me these hues are just beautiful, deep and rich and all from oak trees - it's almost as if they wait for the maples to quit showing off, then begin their display.

Let's take a closer look at the genus called Quercus. The oak is a member of the beech or Fagaceae family. One unique feature that the oak has and other members of the family do not is that its nut is carried in a cap. The nut and cap together are called an acorn. Acorns are a valuable food source for wildlife. Wild turkey, deer, larger songbirds and squirrels among others depend on the nut for surviving the winter. One way to tell the difference between species of oak tree is by their acorns. Examine how they wear their "cap." The cap of the white oak is about one-quarter the size of the oblong shaped nut. The red oak, on the other hand, has a squatty, saucer-like cap covering a more globose shaped nut. The pin oak has an obtuse nut and a more diminutive cap - a big belly so to speak!

There are some 500 species of oak throughout the world. Some of them are evergreen, holding onto their leaves throughout the winter months. These oaks are located in the more southern, warmer regions of our country. Even though our oaks are deciduous, it takes a long time for them to completely defoliate. Sometimes it is the next season's emerging leaves that finally push the

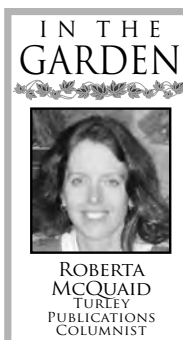
old ones off! This is often problematic for the homeowner who likes to keep his lawn leaf-free. At work I once saw a young groundskeeper attempt to shake the leaves off of a young tree - just to be done with his weekly task!

Most oaks tolerate transplanting the best when they are young and small in size. The pin oak is one exception; its shallow, fibrous root system allows it to be transplanted as a larger specimen. For this reason, the pin oak is widely used for home landscaping. It is also highly sought after because of its unique, pyramidal shape: the lowest branches are pendulous, the middle are horizontal and the top are upright.

Did you know that cork is harvested from the bark of a species of oak tree? Yes, the cork oak grows in Spain, Portugal, and parts of Northern Africa. Another interesting fact: oaks get struck by lightning more than any other tree. This is likely due to their height, some topping over 80 feet at maturity.

The oak tree can grow to be very old. Reportedly, the oldest oak tree in the United States is in Temula, Calif. This Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia) named the Pechanga Great Oak is estimated at 2,000 years old! In nearby Maryland, the Wye Oak lived to be about 460 years old before its demise in 2002. It topped off at 95 feet tall, 165 feet wide and 8 feet in diameter. In 2006, a clone of the tree was planted in the remains of the trunk in a special ceremony.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 24 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food, as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to dfarmer@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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Submitted photo
The Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series ends its 2014 performances Dec. 5 when Dan Kane & Friends perform at the Agawam Senior Center.

Applause Series concludes with Dan Kane & Friends

The 2014 portion of Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series closes on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. when Dan Kane & Friends perform a concert of Christmas favorites and American standards at the Agawam Senior Center.

Dan Kane and his singers have featured some of the best vocalists in the Pioneer Valley for more than 30 years. Their sold out Christmas concerts at the Mass-Mutual Center and Springfield Symphony Hall are a family tradition for many. They have been responsible for discovering and mentoring several of the top young voices in the valley, several of whom have gone on to Broadway, and beyond.

The Agawam Senior Center is located at 954 Main St. and can be reached by phone at 413-821-0604. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

For more information on each of the Applause Series events, visit www.agawamcc.org.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

ARE YOU OLD NEWS?

Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon to mballway@turley.com.



Last week's photo: Correctly identifying Joanne Brown were Pam Pudlo, Geraldine Schilling-Nordal and Lou Scherpa.



Submitted photo
From left, Agawam Mayor Richard Cohen, YMCA of Greater Springfield CEO Rick Smith and Six Flags Park President John Winkler with a \$5,000 check presented by Six Flags New England to the YMCA on Nov. 2.

Six Flags gives toys, \$5K to YMCA

Six Flags New England kicked off the holiday season with its annual toy drive on Nov. 1-2 — the park's last weekend open for the year. Guests were invited to bring a new toy to the park in exchange for \$20.14 off the Main Gate price. All of the toys collected will go directly to the YMCA of Greater Springfield and dispersed to low income homes throughout Springfield to ensure all children open a special surprise this holiday season.

Six Flags also surprised the YMCA of Greater Springfield on Nov. 2 with over \$10,000 in toys, along with a \$5,000 check presentation. The YMCA of Greater Springfield is one of the oldest running YMCAs in the nation providing services to thousands of families each week.

Area teens collecting food donations

The Agawam Public Library's Teen Advisory Council will be collecting nonperishable food items for the Parish Cupboard. Donations of small containers of condiments, such as ketchup and mustard, are appreciated and particularly any items to accompany a Thanksgiving or holiday meal, including boxed stuffing, canned cranberry sauce, gravy, instant potatoes, and vegetables.

Donations may be dropped off at the library anytime through Dec. 19.

Members of the Teen Advisory Council are in grades seven through 12 and plan and organize teen programs and activities at the library. New members are welcome.

Fitness First to host blood drive

Fitness First Health & Fitness Center, 60 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center Friday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo is required to donate blood. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call 413-786-1460.

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Tuesday, November 18, 10 a.m.–noon
The Connecticut Room at Storowton
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When the safety and security of her home and family were threatened by crime, Deborah Halpin armed herself with knowledge on self-protection. Now, through ArmHer, a company she founded, she passes the learning on. Hear advice on effective, affordable, and potentially life-saving devices that can deter criminal activity.

Programs are free and open to the public, but reservations are required. For information or to enroll, call 413.567.7800 or e-mail learning@glenmeadow.org. Visit glenmeadow.org/learning.



Council to decide fate of School St. Barn

By Deborah S. Dachos

Special to the Advertiser News

On Nov. 17, the Agawam City Council will be voting on the fate of one of Agawam's most well-known historic structures. The City Council will decide if Community Preservation Act funding will be used to restore the School Street Barn. A total of \$447,502 is being requested to provide a new foundation, roof, doors and windows, and other structural repairs. The barn was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2011 due to its unique architectural style and the place it holds in Agawam's agricultural past.

For approximately 130 years the structure now named the "School Street Barn" has stood prominently above the floodplain of the Connecticut River, once one of the most thriving agricultural hubs in Western Massachusetts. Though still touting its bright red exterior, decades of hard use and some neglect have masked its façade, causing some

to question its importance to the community. However, once its grand double doors have been slid aside, the structure's awe-inspiring interior brings back memories of when Agawam's economy was dominated by its agriculture.

Since its purchase by the town in 2002 along with 49.3 acres of land on which the School Street Park currently sits, a small dedicated group of residents have been working to raise public awareness of the barn's historic past. Their goal is to restore the barn to its original glory while at the same time renovating it so that it can be used for a host of community activities and functions.

The barn represents not only a rare construction style, but also occupied a unique place in Agawam's agricultural heritage. Starting in the 1940s the barn was part of the Hampden County Jail prison farm and housed equipment, livestock and farm products used to feed prisoners at the former York Street jail. Thirty to forty inmates came to work the farm daily. In 1943 the farm

produced 1,500 gallons of tomatoes, 450 gallons of green tomato relish, 300 gallons of spinach, 125 gallons of carrots, 12 barrels of sauerkraut and 10 barrels of pickles. The program continued through the 1980s, with the number of inmates being fed rising from 200 in the mid-1940s to more than 600 in the late 1980s. An abundance of produce allowed the jail farm to send excess food to homeless families in Springfield and Holyoke. In 1984 alone, the farm produced 10,000 ears of corn, 1,400 heads of cabbage and 700 bushels of other vegetables. At holidays, the farm provided dinners for the inmates, and one newspaper article reported that everything served was produced by the farm, except the cranberries.

In February 2013, the Agawam Office of Planning and Community Development submitted a CPA application to the CPA Committee for the restoration and rehabilitation of the School Street Barn. The project cost was prepared by Crosskey Architects, the design consultant for this project. Of the total

project cost, \$315,000 was requested from the CPA Committee and a separate grant application for \$100,000 was submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. In acting upon the CPA application on March 4, 2013, the City Council placed a condition on their approval that the \$100,000 of MHC funds be awarded. The town received notification on June 19, 2013, that no MHC funds would be granted to the town. Since no MHC funding will be forthcoming, the City Council's vote is null and void.

On Oct. 22, 2014, the CPA Committee voted unanimously to support the use of \$447,502 of historic preservation funds to undertake the necessary repairs to ensure that the School Street Barn will stand as a monument to Agawam's agricultural past for another 130 years. The barn's fate is now with the City Council.

(Deborah S. Dachos is director of Agawam's Office of Planning and Community Development.)

Singing Tree Spectacular celebrates 40th year

The 40th Anniversary Singing Christmas Tree Spectacular is coming this December to the Pioneer Valley. Presented by the Music and Drama departments of Bethany Assembly of God in Agawam, this year's musical is titled "The Nativity Symphony" and is arranged and orchestrated by Bradley Knight. It includes fresh arrangements of classic Christmas carols in addition to new Christmas works from today's writers.

The 70-voice Bethany Choir, under the direction of Minister of Music Ken Bryars, becomes the focal point of the musical, arrayed as ornaments on a towering 25-foot steel tree, and is joined by the 22-piece Bethany Orchestra to present the timeless story of the advent of the Christ in uplifting and inspiring music.

The Bethany Drama Department, under the direction of Marilene Allen (Red Door Theatre), enhances the story with a visual portrayal of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the shepherds, the angels, and the wise men as the advent story unfolds in music. Adding to the visual impact of the music and drama, computer-controlled lighting on the tree "dances" to the beat of the music, creating a thrilling visual explosion of light. Complementing the lighting are scenes projected on the walls of the sanctuary to coincide with the story. This "environmental projection" covers 180 degrees across the stage, and creates a warm and inviting atmosphere for the story to unfold in.

There will be eight presentations of the Singing Christmas Tree Spectacular over the first two Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays of December, Dec. 5-7 and Dec. 12-14. Friday presentations are at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 6 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. (matinee) and again at 6 p.m. All seats are free, with no individual reserved seating. Seating for large groups can be arranged by calling the church office at 413-789-2930. A well-staffed nursery for ages 3 and under is available, and there is signing for the deaf in all presentations.

"This is our Christmas gift to the Pioneer Valley," said Bryars. "A gift Bethany Assembly has now given for the last 40 years. It would be our joy to have the public come and participate in this wonderful presentation for all ages, as we celebrate once again the 'reason for the season,' the birth of Jesus Christ."

Bethany Assembly of God is located at the corner of Route 57 and Main Street in Agawam. For more information, call the church or visit www.bethany-ag.org.



Submitted photo

Bethany Assembly of God will host the 40th Anniversary Singing Tree Spectacular this year the first two weekends of December.

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Agawam Advertiser

Town to support Toys for Tots

Mayor Richard Cohen invites the public to join him in support of the Toys for Tots program, Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Agawam Town Hall.

Donations of unwrapped toys will be accepted on-site at that time. There will also be a Toys for Tots drop-off box at town hall in the lobby during working hours

Positions open on ZBA

Christopher Johnson, president of the Agawam City Council, has announced that there is an opening for one regular position and one alternate position effective Jan. 1 on the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals.

Interested parties should contact Barbara Bard in the City Council office at 413-726-9716 or email bbard@agawam.ma.us.

EARLY DEADLINE

To Celebrate **THANKSGIVING** the **AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS**

Advertising Deadline will be

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GUTTERS

In the Classroom

AHS Class of 1989 plans reunion

The Agawam High School Class of 1989 will hold its 25th reunion Friday, Nov. 28, beginning at 6 p.m. at Crestview Country Club, 281 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam. Tickets are \$28 per person and include food and live music.

Classmates may reserve tickets by mailing checks made payable to AHS C/O 89, to Lisa Allen-Geissler, P.O. Box 346, Feeding Hills, MA 01030. Payments can also be sent via Paypal to agawamclassof89@verizon.net. Checks and Paypal payments must note the name of the classmate and guest name if applicable. Payments should be received no later than Nov. 18.

Agawam High School counseling bulletin

Open Houses: Many colleges are hosting open houses for the next few months. Check the Counseling Center website for times and dates.

Visiting College Representatives: To meet with any of the following college or university representatives that will be visiting the school, sign up at least one day in advance in the Counseling Center: Nov. 10: 8 a.m., Lasell College; Nov. 19: Noon, Virginia Commonwealth University; Dec. 3: 8 a.m., Bay Path College.

Western New England University Dept. of Social Work: Will hold an information luncheon describing the Social Work Program, Saturday, Nov. 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Register at www.wne.edu/open-house-reg by Nov. 15.

Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.



Submitted photo
Alex Mader, of Agawam (center), Jhayden Sheftal, of Chicopee (left), and Alex Sopollec, of Palmer, rehearse a scene from “When the Rain Stops Falling.”

HCC play to include Agawam resident

HOLYOKE — The Holyoke Community College Theater Department will present “When the Rain Stops Falling,” Nov. 13 to 15 and Nov. 20 to 22, on the stage of the Leslie Phillips Theater.

Among the student actors in Andrew Bovell’s dramatic exploration of one family’s struggle over four generations, from a Small London flat in 1959 to the Australian desert in 2039, is Agawam resident Alex Mader.

All evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a matinee performance on Saturday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m. The Friday, Nov. 14, show will be interpreted for speakers of American Sign Language.

Tickets are \$10, general admission; \$8, students and seniors; \$5, HCC students, faculty and staff.

Campus Notes...

Emerson College: Douglas Koziol, of Feeding Hills, is enrolled as an undergraduate student in the Creative Writing program.

Western New England University: Feeding Hills residents Melissa Marieb and Michael Saccomani received degrees at ceremonies held Oct. 15.

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NOTICE
ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Our Lady of the Lake to host fair, bake sale

SOUTHWICK — Our Lady of the Lake Church, 224 Sheep Pasture Road, will hold its third annual Christmas Craft Fair and Bake Sale, Saturday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 16, from 9 a.m. to noon in the new Marian Hall.

Crafters interested in being a part of the fair can download a “crafter’s form” and poster by going to ollsouthwick.org. Inside and outside vendor spaces are available.

The bake sale will offer items just in time for Thanksgiving and there will be a raffle of crafters’ items as well. The Knights of Columbus, Fr. Shea Council, will provide food for the fair. There is ample parking at the church.

For more information, call 413-569-0162.

Aging parents, sibling rivalry topic of Nov. 19 event

The public is invited to The Atrium at Cardinal Drive for “The 50-50 Rule: Adult Sibling Rivalry with Aging Parents.” This free presentation by Suzanne McElroy, from Home Instead Senior Care, will take place Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m.

When it comes to working together as adults, siblings sometimes fall back into old patterns. The purpose of this presentation is to teach participants how to negotiate the path of least resistance and get some understanding and support from siblings while caring for parents.

Refreshments will be served. Seating is limited.

To register, call 413-281-9911 or email eleon@benchmarkquality.com.

Holiday craft fair Saturday

SOUTHWICK — Christ Church United Methodist, 222 College Highway, will host a holiday craft fair Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a lunch menu, including tacos in a bag. Coffee and tea will be free all day.

Christ Church United Methodist is the little white church located at Gillette Corners near Big Y and CVS. It is handicapped-accessible.

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Show off the newest member of your family!
On Thursday, December 18th
The Agawam Advertiser News will dedicate
a special section to all babies born in 2014.

Baby's Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Parents' Town of Residence: _____

Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____

Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

Send form with a check or money order for \$20. (Scanning and processing fee.)
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Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish the photo
to be returned. (Cash is accepted at the office, please DO NOT mail cash.)

Deadline for photos & forms is Friday, Nov. 28th.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MILLIE



Submitted photo
Millie Fountain, of Agawam, far right, recently celebrated her 80th birthday with family and friends. Part of the celebration included Millie fulfilling her dream of riding on a Mardi Gras float at the Big E. Joining her in the festivities were, from left, daughters Laurie Madison, of Georgia; Dora Rankin, of Agawam; and Debbie Mitchell, of Chicopee; and her granddaughter, Tiffany Michon, of Chicopee.

Vendors wanted for
Dec. 10 craft fair

The Agawam Junior High School and the Washington D.C. Club will host a Holiday Vendor and Crafts Night Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. Nearly 30 vendors will offer a wide variety of holiday crafts, edible delights, raffles prizes and everyday items that make perfect gifts for the holidays.
Anyone interested in reserving a vendor space can do so at ww.agawampublicschools.org, at the AJHS school webpage or by contacting Norm Robbins at 413-821-0542. Applications may be downloaded from the school webpage and are also available in the AJHS office.

YMCA to
host Mohegan
Sun trip

The Agawam YMCA will host a bus trip to Mohegan Sun the third Monday of each month, with the exception of January. This month's trip is scheduled for Nov. 17. The bus will leave the YMCA parking lot at 8 a.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and include a \$15 meal ticket and two \$10 big wheel tickets. To reserve a seat, call Helen at 413-786-8685.

Seniors
Upcoming events at
Agawam Senior Center

The Agawam Senior Center will host an educational mini seminar focusing on electricity, Monday, Nov. 17 at noon. The public is invited to bring a monthly electrical bill and learn what the options are for managing energy use. A question and answer time will follow the presentation.

The Friends of the Agawam Senior Center will host a Holiday Craft Fair Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the senior center. Two floors of vendors will be there and Carol, the senior center chef, will prepare her ever-popular soup and meatballs. The public is invited.

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar
of events

Monday, Nov. 17: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.
Tuesday, Nov. 18: SHINE Representative (by appt.); 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting Class, Sewing Class; 10 a.m., Chair Exercise, Coffee Hour with Rep. Nicholas Boldyga; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("Tuesdays With Morrie"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Chorus; 3 p.m., Council on Aging Meeting; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class; 7 p.m., Agawam Junior Women's Club Meeting.
Wednesday, Nov. 19: Meet the Mayor in Friends Coffee Shop; 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Reach Out Group Meeting, Scrabble, Ballroom Lessons; 1:30 p.m., Golden Age Chapter 1 Meeting; Tobacco Valley Artist

Group Meeting.
Thursday, Nov. 20: Foot Care Nurses (\$29); 9 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Open Art; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6 p.m., Cancer Support Group Meeting; 6:30 p.m., Pitch.
Friday, Nov. 21: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m., All Media Art; 9:30 a.m., Tai Chi, 11:30 a.m., Thanksgiving Luncheon Music with Sandy Robinson (reservations required); Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Lunch menu

Monday, Nov. 17: Meatloaf, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, bananas.
Tuesday, Nov. 18: Chicken and dumplings, mixed vegetables, puff pastry, garden salad, pudding.
Wednesday, Nov. 19: Meatball stew, zucchini salad, pears.
Thursday, Nov. 20: Roast pork stir fry, brown rice, stir fry vegetables, pineapple.
Friday, Nov. 21: Roast turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, orange cranberry muffin, pumpkin pie (\$5).

Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 54 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from Nov. 4 to Nov. 11.

On Nov. 5 at 8:59 a.m., the department responded to School Street for lockout.
On Nov. 5 at 1:37 p.m., the department responded to Chestnut Lane for outside rubbish fire, other.
On Nov. 5 at 4:04 p.m., the department responded to Elmar Drive for public service assistance, other.
On Nov. 5 at 5:31 p.m., the department responded to Gold Street for lockout.
On Nov. 5 at 5:47 p.m., the department responded to Clover Hill Drive for citizen complaint.
On Nov. 6 at 5:01 p.m., the department responded to Ruth Avenue for good intent call, other.
On Nov. 7 at 9:20 a.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for person in distress, other.
On Nov. 7 at 10:48 p.m., the depart-

ment responded to Cecile Street for lockout.
On Nov. 9 at 9:29 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for gas leak (natural gas or LPG).
On Nov. 9 at 12:09 p.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional.
On Nov. 9 at 3:41 p.m., the department responded to Shibley Court for building fire.
On Nov. 10 at 1:53 p.m., the department responded to Dartmouth Street, was dispatched and cancelled en route.
On Nov. 10 at 5:30 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.
On Nov. 10 at 5:42 p.m., the department responded to Elm Street for public service.
On Nov. 10 at 10:18 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional.
On Nov. 10 at 10:35 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for special outside fire, other.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 244 calls for service from Nov. 4 to Nov. 9. The department made 8 arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Nov. 4

Charles S. Barbarisi, 26, of 12 Eagle St., Southwick, was arrested on charges of possession of a Class A drug, speeding in violation of special regulation, and marked lanes violation.

Wednesday, Nov. 5

Ayman Sara, 18, of 1162 Springfield St., Agawam, was arrested on charges of disturbing school and false bomb threat.

Thursday, Nov. 6

Travis K. Britt, 51, of 31 North Alhambra Circle, Agawam, was arrested on a warrant.

Friday, Nov. 7

Randolf Holmes, 45, of 55 Griffin Place, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of operating under the influence of liquor, third offense.
Brian Todd Wysocki, 51, of 77 Reed St., Agawam, was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, assault and battery, threat to commit a crime, and attempt to commit a crime (larceny).

Saturday, Nov. 8

William F. Garrett, 23 Suffield St., Apt. 38, Agawam, was arrested on charges of domestic strangulation and domestic assault and battery.

Sunday, Nov. 9

Sylvester Umunna, 33, of 15 Sutton Place, Apt. 4, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of domestic assault and battery.
Manuel E. Pichirilo, Jr., 40, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 33, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of trespassing.



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AGAWAM ADVERTISER SEEKS MEETING CORRESPONDENT

The Agawam Advertiser News, a Turley Publication, covering Agawam and Feeding Hills, is seeking a freelance correspondent to cover municipal and school district meetings on a regular basis. Applicants should be familiar with town government and have good writing skills. A degree in communications, English or journalism is not required, but encouraged. The applicant should be available on nights. Position is paid per story. Please send cover letter, resume and writing samples to Editor Tim Kane at 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or tkane@turley.com. No phone calls or drop-ins please.



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Cinema online fundraiser meets \$40K goal

CINEMA, from page 1

and she kept coming back as the years went by.

“A couple of us, we used to go do Chinese food and then we’d see the movie,” Bucalo said. “It was a great girls’ night. ... The great thing about Agawam was always the lower cost, it’s a nice central location, a nice homey theater.”

Wheeler said she never seriously worried that the web campaign would reach its goal.

“As soon as it went up, the donations started coming in,” Wheeler said.

She credited local news organizations for spreading the word about the fundraiser. Once all those newspaper readers and television viewers started donating, said Wheeler, “all my doubts were completely alleviated.”

Money buys 2nd projector

The two-screen cinema, which opened in 1971 and closed in May, had shown second-run movies over the past few years and never made the transition to digital projection. The landlord at Southgate is making repairs, including a new roof; Wheeler put up her own money and took out a loan to make other needed upgrades at the theater, including purchasing one digital projector.

With the money raised so far, she will be able to purchase a second digital projector, enabling her to open both auditoriums. The Kickstarter page will remain active until Saturday at 5:08 p.m. Any funds raised beyond \$40,000 will be spent on other renovations at the theater.

Those renovations may include improved exterior signs, new acoustic treatments to improve sound quality in the theaters, and new screen masking — drapery — in the theaters.

As of Tuesday night, \$41,430 had been pledged, and Wheeler said Salon Tres Chic still plans to hold a “cut-athon” to raise money for the cinema. She predicted that that event, to be held Friday evening, would attract several supporters who don’t feel comfortable spending money online.

Wheeler said her Kickstarter support has come almost exclusively from Agawam and adjoining towns, such as West Springfield and Suffield. Local businesses were generous with their Kickstarter dollars and with in-kind help during the renovation, Wheeler added.

Wheeler, an emergency medical technician by trade, has been working nonstop preparing the theater — cleaning up the place, networking with film companies, driving across the state to buy new furniture for the lobby.

“We’ve been so busy working on the theater that we haven’t had time to stop and celebrate,” Wheeler said Tuesday.

She said she wants to put together something special for the grand opening. She originally hoped to open the cinemas

in time for Thanksgiving, but has had to push the date back to December because renovations are taking longer than expected. She said the first film shown will probably be whatever is in theaters that week, but she hopes to also offer “a nice, classic, retro film” on the first weekend.

She said last month that with two auditoriums open, she would be able to schedule three to four movies in rotation each day. Tickets will be “in the \$7 range,” with discounts for children, seniors, military personnel and matinee shows.

Excitement among donors

Robert Kadis, chairman of the town’s Cultural Council, said his group had partnered with the former Agawam Family Cinemas to put on film festivals in 2008 and 2009. He said he hoped to work with Wheeler to bring foreign films to Agawam again. He said he knew at least one person — himself — looking forward to the theater’s return to Agawam.

“I haven’t been to the movies since last Christmas,” Kadis said. “Getting the movie theater up and running would be a bonus to the town, and to me as well. ... We were just having lunch today with some people in town, and we were saying just how wonderful it is. It’s the kind of thing that really warms me, warms the heart, that people can see the value of this.”

Donna Safford Fleury, another donor to the campaign, also said she hasn’t been to the movies much since the Agawam theater closed, even though she used to go to Agawam Family Cinemas with her hiking club every Tuesday.

Kickstarter campaigns typically include a wide range of prizes for donors. As of Tuesday, one donor has pledged at the highest level of support — \$5,000 or more — and will win naming rights to the lobby, booth or one of the auditoriums, one free theater rental, two year-long free-admission passes, unlimited concessions and a “backstage” tour. The most popular level of support is \$100 to \$249, which includes one year-long free-admis-



File photo

Kimberly Wheeler, the new owner of Agawam Cinemas.



Turley Publications photo by Michael J. Ballway

Agawam Cinemas — then called Jerry Lewis Twin Cinemas — opened in 1971. According to the article in the July 1, 1971, Agawam Advertiser, this “luxurious and attractive theater” was “the town’s first indoor movie house.” The brief article concludes that “the theater is worthy of local support.”

sion pass. Any donor of \$15 or more will be recognized on a “Thank You Banner” displayed in the lobby.

One of the supporters, and a familiar face to theatergoers, was Cory Williams, who held several jobs at Agawam Family Cinemas in its last years, starting as a stockboy and ending in a management role. He said that as a former projectionist and film splicer, he will be sad to see the old system go, but looking forward to being able to see the latest movies at a lower ticket price than multiplex theaters.

“I’m really stoked it’s opening, and really excited it’s going to be first-run,” Williams said this week. “For the amount of support backing it up ... [Wheeler] is very passionate and I think it’ll do well. It will bring people together and definitely help out with other small businesses in town. Hopefully, along with the theater opening, you’ll get more people in there and the remaining stores in that plaza can fill up, as well.”

Cut-athon Nov. 14 to support Cinemas

In addition to the local businesses that are rallying to support the reopening of the Agawam Cinemas, one local business has organized a unique fundraising event. Salon Tres Chic and Day Spa located at 339 Walnut Street Ext. in Agawam has volunteered to host a cut-athon, with all proceeds being donated

to the fundraising efforts for the Agawam Cinemas.

The event takes place this Friday, the last full day of the Kickstarter fundraising campaign, 4-8 p.m. No appointments are necessary; simply walk in to participate. The cost to participate is a \$20 donation.

Mayor proposes tax hike

TAX HIKE, from page 1

dential properties averaging a \$54 increase and commercial a \$52 increase.

The council has made changes to the tax shift on the council floor, including two years ago when Cohen proposed a 1.65 tax shift, which would have been a lower increase in the average tax bill for residents. The council, however, favored lower shift, helping the average business property. The council was seeking to promote a business-friendly attitude for the town.

Lower tax rates for business owners have also been typically supported by the West of the River Chamber of Commerce.

Agawam is one of many larger communities in the region that have a split tax rate. That rate increased greatly between 2012 and 2013 when it rose more than \$1 per \$1,000 valuation of property. The rate dropped slightly in 2014 for residential property. Cohen’s budget as well as the rise in some property values allowed the town to keep the increase in the rate this year moderate.

According to Assessor Kevin Baldini, the residential tax rate will raise about \$32.37 million toward the tax levy. Commercial property assessed will raise more than \$7 million, industrial more than \$6 million, and personal property about \$8.23 million.

The town has assessed property values of \$2.81 billion in Agawam.

Compared to eight surrounding communities in the immediate area, Agawam’s residential tax rate was the lowest in fiscal 2014. No other surrounding community has a tax rate below \$16.41, West Springfield’s rate.

Agawam’s business property tax rate was lowest among the six area communities that have a split tax rate. East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, and Southwick have a tax factor of 1 and assess all properties the same. Agawam has had the split tax rate since 1989.

Five years ago, the tax rate has increased gradually for residents while fluctuating for businesses. In fiscal 2010, the residential rate was \$12.94. The business rate was \$27.07 that year. The business rate rose as

high as \$28.46 in 2012, but dropped the following year.

The Agawam City Council meeting begins as 7 p.m. with the public hearing to be held during the meeting. Anyone wishing to be heard on the tax factor and tax shift should attend the meeting, where there will be opportunities for public comment.

Supt.: AHS followed bomb threat protocol

BOMB, from page 1

what information we can release.”

Following the released media reports, Sapelli sent out the call and confirmed what could be legally released.

He told the Agawam Advertiser News the student in question was complaining about the school and said he “wished” he could bomb the school. Court documents state he also said he wanted to shoot people using an AK-47 assault rifle.

“The incident was taken very seriously,” said Sapelli. “Once the statement had been made, the teacher cut off the discussion and he was immediately removed from the class.”

Sara was taken to the office and questioned by the administration. The school resource officer was brought in and eventually the Agawam Police Department, the federal Department of Homeland Security, and the FBI were all notified. Bomb threats, regardless of their validity, are treated with the highest of seriousness.

Sapelli said once information could be released, the school district did so on Saturday.

School Committee members Anthony Bonavita, the vice chairman of the committee, and Shelley Reed both said they understood there is a protocol to be followed, and acknowledged the school district followed the protocol.

“I think the high school did an excellent job of handling the situation,” said Reed. “They found there was a threat and removed it immediately and the got the police involved.”

But both say some sort of reassurance or notification should be made to parents and school committee members shortly after the incident occurred.

“I did not find out about what happened until I picked up the newspaper on Saturday morning,” said Bonavita. “I should not have had to find out that way.”

Reed says while information is limited, there should be some happy medium the school district can find in order to get something out to parents sooner. Three days was too long, she said.

“Instead, the students are bringing this story home and it is getting changed in translation,” said Reed. “Maybe the administration does not have to say what exactly happened, but they should reassure parents that the students are safe in school and that the incident has been dealt with.”

Sapelli released information about the protocol from a school standpoint. The high school principal has the ability to suspend a student who is charged with a felony. There is an appeal process for such suspensions. Following the result of pending charges, the superintendent may expel a student who is deemed to be a negative distraction for the school.

Sapelli complimented high school officials, from the teacher who reported the student up to the administration, police, and other agencies for their quick and proper response to the incident.

Mayor Richard Cohen, the chairman of the School Committee, declined comment citing the incident is an ongoing investigation.

The meeting between the administration and School Committee will address the concerns about information being released to parents following these types of incidents. A date has not been set for the meeting as of press time.

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION



Submitted photo

Members of the Junior Youth Group with their items for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Youth group helps needy children

Junior Youth Group members from Hope Community Church, 152 South Westfield St., Feeding Hills, gathered recently to make items to include in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Samaritan's Purse is an international Christian charity that sends gift-filled shoeboxes to needy children all over the world.

Members of the community are invited to participate in packing shoeboxes Saturday, Nov. 15, at 6:30 p.m., at the church. Donations of new toys and small school supplies are also being accepted. All items must be small enough to fit in a shoebox, and not include any liquids, military or used items.

Beer, wine tasting to benefit Leonard House

John McCarthy, proprietor of McCarthy's Liquors, and Phil Kimball, trustee from the Captain Charles Leonard House, announced recently that a Thanksgiving Beer and Wine tasting event will be held at McCarthy's Agawam store, 430 Main St., on Saturday,

Nov. 22, from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are available at the store for \$5. Proceeds will be donated to the Leonard House Maintenance and Preservation Fund. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Participants must be 21 years old to attend.

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'Ghostology' at library this Tuesday

SOUTHWICK — Agawam Paranormal will present "Ghostology 201," the follow-up program to "Ghostology 101," Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Southwick Public Library. This program deals with the darker side of the paranormal world and is designed for an adult audience.

During the presentation, after a brief talk there will be a clinic for actual hands-on experience with some of the tools that are used on most investigations, including EMF meters, temperature work and spirit photography. These are some of the instruments that will be used when Agawam Paranormal performs testing at the Southwick Town Hall in early 2015.

Following the clinic, Agawam Paranormal will conduct an actual EVP session in the library and will review and reveal whatever they happen to capture.

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AGAWAM INDIAN ORCHARD LONGMEADOW SPRINGFIELD WEST SPRINGFIELD WILBRAHAM

Residents asked to help vets

VETERANS, from page 1

“I implore you to call my office to see how you can help if you don’t know what to do,” said Gerard.

State Sen. Donald Humason, R-Westfield, piggybacked on Gerard’s comments. He encouraged and challenged those in attendance to not only provide help for veterans, but for their families as well.

“There are so many families that are sacrificing right now,” said Humason. “They are the ones managing the home front while our soldiers are away fighting for our freedoms.”

State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, says the state Legislature is doing what it can to help provide resources for veterans. He outlined a few areas, including the updated Valor Act, called Valor Act 2. The updated act allows employers to give some preference to hiring veterans that are in need of employment upon returning home.

He also said there are more than 70 programs that help veterans get resources and help. He says Massachusetts spends about twice the amount of money other states in the country do on veterans.

“But there is always so much more we can do,” said Boldyga. “I encourage you to heed the challenge of our veterans’ agent.

The ceremony was led by Aldo Mancini, a member of the Veterans Council, a group appointed by Mayor Richard Cohen to advise him on veterans’ issues in town. Mancini organized a wreath laying by veterans of different branches in the armed forces. Taps was played, and the American Legion Honor Guard fired their guns into the air to commemorate the day.

Cohen says the United States is the best country on earth thanks to the sacrifices of those who have served in the armed forces.

“Every generation in our nation has had brave Americans that have stepped up and served proudly,” said Cohen. “They deserve our thanks and admiration. It is vital we pass this message on to future generations.”



Agawam Veterans Council member Aldo Mancini opens the ceremony.



Agawam Veterans Council member Frank Mazzei tolls the bell.



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Macklen Wier plays taps.



The Sisters of Providence Health System is pleased to welcome nineteen physician members, as well as physician assistants, nurse practitioners and staff members formerly with Hampden County Physician Associates (HCPA) to Mercy Medical Group, a multi-specialty group of physicians who practice throughout the Pioneer Valley. Plans are for these providers to continue practicing at the former HCPA Springfield, East Longmeadow, Feeding Hills and Ludlow locations (see list of providers and locations below).

Mercy Medical Group recognizes the importance of retaining established primary care physicians and remains committed to adding additional primary care physicians to improve access to clinical services in the local community. Despite HCPA’s financial difficulties that resulted in its closure, this seamless transition is in the best interest of patient care because it allows patients of the former HCPA to continue to receive care without interruption. Patients will also benefit from enhanced patient care services through Mercy’s continuum of care options.

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If you are a patient of a provider listed above, you will receive a letter at your home with additional details regarding the transition and information about obtaining your medical records. If you have further questions, please call your provider’s office or our Coordinated Care Center at 413-748-7444.

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SPORTS

Agawam heading back to finals

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam football team defeated South Hadley for a second time this season at home, winning the semifinals of the Western Massachusetts Division 4 Tournament last Friday night 26-6 at Harmon A. Smith Field in Agawam.

Agawam’s defense was on display for a second time this season against the Tigers. South Hadley was limited to a single touchdown during the game and Agawam was able to make three interceptions during the game against South Hadley quarterback Joe Allard.

The Brownies got the ball first in the game, but were not able to score. After getting the ball back, Gio Russo made a 16-yard run into the end zone for a touchdown with 4:20 left in the first quarter. Sean Moore’s point-after kick was good and the Brownies 7-0 lead.

South Hadley continued to have trouble getting yards on offense. They turned the ball back over



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli
Agawam quarterback Troy Gallerani makes a pass attempt.

to Agawam, and Jason Carleton completed a 16-yard run with 6:36 remaining in the second quarter. Moore kicked another point-after to make it 14-0.

The Tigers were finally able to get on the scoreboard when Allard connected over the middle to Ryan Mooney for a 15-yard touchdown pass with just 24 seconds remaining.

Anthony Basile got a run for more than 40 yards to put Agawam in a scoring possession with 14 seconds left in the half. But a pass into the end zone went incomplete as time expired, keeping the Tigers within one score at halftime.

Agawam kicked the ball off to South Hadley in the third quarter, but it was a very short-lived drive as Basile picked up an interception and gave the ball back to the Brownies.

Max Molta would make a big 13-yard run during the next drive to get the ball to South Hadley’s 2-yard line. On the next play, Agawam changed directions, with Russo taking the ball to the left

See FOOTBALL, page 16

Brownies top Falcons to advance

By Nate Rosenthal
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - It would not be fair to the Agawam boys soccer team to say that are sneaking up on teams, but when the number seven wins against the second seeded team, that can generally be considered a bit of a surprise. That is what transpired this week when the Brownies shut down number two Minnechaug in the quarterfinal round of the Division 1 Tournament.

Agawam took the lead 13:00 in and by the half they were ahead, 2-0. It went to three early in the second half and with 9:00 to go, the Brownies scored a fourth. This game was never really in doubt, as the Brownies controlled the tempo from start to finish.

The first shot on or near the goal came in the fourth minute when Willem Fuehr put a 30-yarder on goal. It was quiet until the 12th minute when Cam Rivest sent one over the goal from 20 yards. Back at the other end, Alex Sours came out of the net to pick up a loose ball in the same minute. Still in the 12th minute Stephen Mateus was wide right from 12 yards for Agawam.

After the Falcons cleared it to midfield, the Brownies brought it right back in. Luis Nieves sent a pass from 35 yards to Brodie Keene on the left side. Keene shot for the far corner from 12 yards and found the back of the net. The time was 12:36 and Agawam had a 1-0 lead.

In the 16th minute Alex Desaulnier was on goal from 10 yards. In the 23rd, Michael Goonan broke down the left side and forced



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com
Agawam’s Brodie Keene (2) takes a look up the field as he chases down the ball.

Sours to come out to greet him. Anthony Sciantelli sent in a corner kick that Nieves headed through the crease. In the 25th and a minute later Keene was on goal from the side. In the 29th, Chris Balise came in on a cross in front of the goal. On the other end Minnechaug got the ball and Jacob Belemjian sent in a corner kick from the right. In the 20th, Vincent DeMattia was wide right. Keene scored his second goal with 7:15 to go in the half on a

breakaway. He came down the side and stopped about 12 yards out. LaBranche came out to cut down the angle, but Keene was able to get the ball away and into the far left corner for a goal.

In the final 7:00 the teams went up and down and did have some chances. Nieves was on goal from 18 yards in the 34th; Michael Rita was on goal from 10 yards in the 36th Nieves sent one through the crease in the

Please see SOCCER, page 16

Agawam, Warriors prepare for rematch

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – It’s Agawam vs. Wahconah, Part Two.

This Friday night, Agawam football will return to the Berkshires to take on Wahconah at 7 p.m. in the Western Massachusetts Division 4 championship game.

Agawam won the right to get their rematch against the Warriors with a semifinal victory over South Hadley last Friday night 26-6.

The Brownies are hoping for a different result this season, but know they are facing a formidable opponent for the second straight season. Wahconah punched their finals ticket with a

dominant 48-19 victory over No. 4 Chicopee Comp.

Agawam has run rough shot on the playoff competition during the past few weeks, beating Chicopee Comp and then South Hadley twice in three of the last four weeks.

Agawam has not lost since early October against Amherst and is 7-2 for the season following their semifinal win.

The big key to Agawam’s success this season has been the running game on the offensive side of the ball, and their ability to play clutch defense on that side of the ball. Agawam’s clutch defense came through in the final regular season week when they overcame

Please see REMATCH, page 16

Dustin set to race at states Finishes second at Western Mass

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Just making it to the Western Massachusetts meet at Northfield Mountain last weekend was not good enough for Megan Dustin, the winner of the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference meet. She wanted to win.

Dustin was second in the Western Mass. meet, the first Northfield meet she has been able to compete in.

On Tuesday, Dustin said she was excited she will get to com-

pete in the state meet, but wanted to win again.

“I’m still processing this race myself,” she said. “The Western Mass. cross country experience was new to me, being my first time racing it. I raced this course once my sophomore year at an invitational, and have been practicing at the course throughout the season. Despite the less than desired race outcome, it’s still one of my favorite courses. I am usually a hill lover.”

Dustin’s sentiments are not often echoed as most find the Northfield Mountain course to be difficult.

Please see DUSTIN, page 16

Volleyball players wanted

By Dave Forbes
Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer

Know a volleyball player that is looking to sharpen their skills?

The Western Massachusetts Volleyball Club may be the choice for them. The girls program will be holding a registration/playdate on Sunday, Nov. 16 at Holyoke Community College.

There are two times, which run from 9 to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The squad has players from most high school programs in the region, including the likes of Ware, Agawam, Ludlow, Belchertown, Holyoke and other powers from across the region, along with various colleges from around New England and upstate New York.

“Western MA volleyball club is seeking players and coaches who love volleyball and want to pursue the skills to constantly improve their volleyball and life skills,” Club Director Roxann Link said. “As coaches we are devoted to the game, team, and individuals that seek our guidance. We are always growing and adapting to the needs of our organization and discovering new ways to teach/coach the skills necessary to play the game at a competitive level.

All programs work better with a strong foundation of principles and rules. Western MA volleyball club strives to be a leader in developing an affordable, successful and effective feeder program for our local schools and colleges by giving a strong and steady foundation. We utilize adults with solid ethical backgrounds. As coaches we are willing to be mentors as well as coaches to our players. This way the players can have the tools necessary to meet the real challenges of

their greatest level of competence. Whether a player is with us for six months or years, they will leave knowing the skills needed to develop and maintain a successful life, whether it be in sports or life in general.”

The club offers three different programs — a club team, an elite team and an in house, short season squad.

For the club, the program cost this season is \$50 membership to USA Volleyball/New England Region, which is done online and can be paid with a credit card.

Then the program fee is \$500 and needs to be paid by check or cash to Western MA Volleyball. A deposit of \$100 must be paid on registration days. Balance is \$400. If needed we have a payment plan: \$150 due by Dec. 1, \$150 due by Jan 1 and \$100 due by Feb. 1.

For the elite team, the cost is \$800 and can be paid in installments like the club team.

The program cost for the in-house short season team is \$50 membership to USA Volleyball/New England Region, which is done online and can be paid with a credit card.

The elite team will be holding tryouts on Sunday, Nov. 23 and Sunday, Nov. 30.

Then the program fee is \$250 and needs to be paid by check or cash to Western MA Volleyball. A deposit of \$100 must be paid on registration days. Balance of \$150 is due by Jan 1.

For more information on the events, go to wmassvolleyball.com.

Dave Forbes is the sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 237.

WINTERS RECEIVES OUTSTANDING SWIMMER AWARD



submitted photo

AGAWAM - Sydney Winters, of Feeding Hills, (right) pictured with Olympic Swimmer Kristy Kowal recently received the New England Outstanding Swimmer Award for 2013/2014 season. Swimming for Mei's Typhoons Swim Club out of Springfield College, she received this award for the 12 and 13-year-old age group. Sydney also earned the New England Top IMX award that ranked her nationally at 10th in the country for her age group. The year brought many accomplishments and she was invited to attend the Eastern Zone Select Camp sponsored by USA Swimming in Baltimore, Md. There she had the opportunity to train in the pool and classroom with some of the top teenage talent from the Eastern Zone. Swimming in her final meet as a 12-year-old she set a New England Swim Record in the 200 freestyle. That record was previously set in 1997.

AGAWAM TAKES SOCCER CROWN



submitted photo

AGAWAM - The Agawam U14 Pioneer Valley soccer team won the championship in their division. Pictured back row (from left to right) is: coach Frank DeCaro, Dante Lee, John Wheat, Dan O'Connell, Coach Ed Corridan, Justin Swistak, Brett Brenner, Derek Davis, Dan Donahue, Stanley Nieves, and Coach Jen Lingenberg. Front row is Tomasso DeCaro, Joe Pellegrino, Jordan Rowe, Justin Lingenberg, Ben Mielnikowski, Sangmyoung Han, Nate Colon, Matt Talevi and Eyan Corridan.

Veronesi inducted into Ithaca College Athletics Hall of Fame

AGAWAM - Paul Veronesi, a lifelong resident of Agawam, was posthumously inducted into the Ithaca College Athletics Hall of Fame on Oct. 10 for his outstanding ability in men's basketball.

A 1972 graduate of the college, he distinguished himself as one of the all-time great scorers in the men's basketball program's long history. He still ranks as the all-time leader in average points per game, with 1,189 points over 63 games in his three varsity seasons, an average of 18.87 points per game (pre-three-point era).

Veronesi earned all-American recognition following his junior season, and the team went to the NCAA tournament in his senior season. Veronesi missed just two games in his varsity career, and while known for his scoring ability, he also showed unselfishness with more than 200 assists. Veronesi demonstrated his scoring touch as soon as he came to Ithaca College. He was voted outstanding freshman as he led the team with 451 points and a 21.5 points-per-game

average during the 1968-69 campaign.

Known as “Mr. Clutch,” Veronesi was twice voted Most Valuable Player ('69-'70 and '70-'71 seasons) and was Ithaca's Athlete of the Week six times. He was named to the Weekly ECAC All-Star Basketball Team six times and named to the ECAC Division II All-Star Team in 1971.

Additionally, he was named to the US Basketball Writers All-Star Team, and the New York State Sportswriters All-Star Basketball team two years in a row. “Vero” attended Agawam High School where he earned three letters in basketball and was selected to the All-Western Mass, and All League teams as a senior.

Following his passing in 2004, his parents, the late Estelle and Albert Veronesi, established a memorial scholarship in his name. Two \$1,000 scholarships are awarded each year to graduating seniors from Agawam High School, one who excels in academics, and the other in basketball.

COLLEGE NEWS

Rackliffe Named MASCAC Volleyball Player of the Week

FRAMINGHAM – Sophomore middle hitter Alycia Rackliffe, of Feeding Hills, has been named the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Volleyball Player of the Week for the week of November 8th.

Rackliffe earns her third player of the week honor this season after being named the MVP of the 2014 MASCAC Volleyball Tournament. Rackliffe helped propel the Rams to the Tournament Championship after averaging 13 kills, four digs, three blocks and an ace in two matches.

Rackliffe recorded 14 kills on 38 attempts, .263 hitting percentage, with three assists, seven digs and five blocks in a thrilling semi-final victory over Bridgewater State.

Rackliffe closed the Tournament with 12 kills on 26 attempts with two aces and two

blocks in a three set championship game victory over Worcester State.

Monahan, Hurley earn conference honors

WESTFIELD - Five Westfield State women's cross country runners have earned All-Conference honors and were honored on this week's Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference's weekly honor roll.

Sophomore Ashley Monahan, an Agawam graduate, crossed the line in 20:42.05 for a fourth place finish at the 2014 MASCAC/New England Alliance Women's Cross Country Championship.

Senior Samantha Hurley, of Agawam, crossed the line 10th with a 5K time of 21:07.47 at the 2014 MASCAC/New England Alliance Women's Cross Country Championship.

AHS Hockey Booster Club to meet

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School Hockey Booster Club will hold an important informational parent meeting Wednesday, Nov 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Coach Rich Feeley will speak about the upcoming hockey season and will be available for any questions.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Running back Max Molta heads left.

FOOTBALL, from page 14

side and scoring easily to make it 20-6. The Brownies got the ball right back when Allard’s pass aimed for Ted Doyle went through his hands and landed with Jacob Root. The Brownies made it all the way back to the 8-yard line, but a holding and an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty pushed Agawam back 25 yards. Agawam would end up punting the ball back to the Tigers. But Root would again make an interception. At the beginning of the fourth quarter, Agawam pushed the ball all the way to the one-yard line, and then Troy Gallerani got a boost from his offense as he took the quar-

terback keeper into the end zone to complete Agawam’s scoring. South Hadley had the ball two more times, but was not able to do anything with it. For the game, Gallerani went 3-for-9 for 43 yards. Allard went 3-for-13 for 47 yards. Russo had the big night on the ground, gaining 1266 yards on 18 carries. Basile had 45 yards on one carry. South Hadley’s running game struggled. Mooney was limited to just 35 yards on 11 carries. Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

REMATCH, from page 14

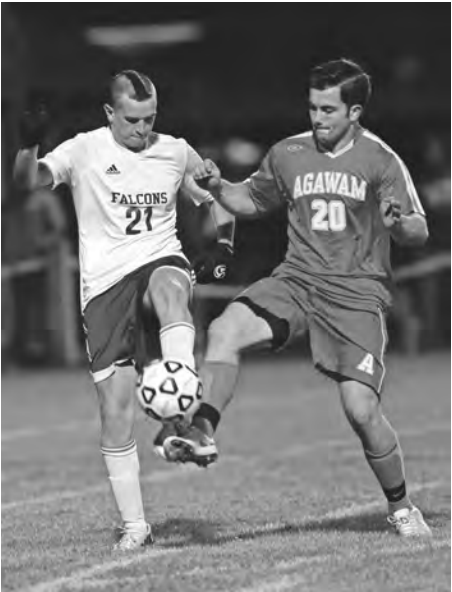
a late scoring attempt by Comp to hold on for a 27-22 victory. They did the same, making a few big stops when they narrowly defense Holyoke 22-20 early in the season. The Brownies have a very talented running core, with Gio Russo really starting to shine late in the season. He has been running more than 100 yards per game during the past few weeks and had two touchdowns in Agawam’s victory over South Hadley. Last year, Agawam went into the championship game with a perfect 9-0 record. They were facing the Warriors, which had a similar perfect record. Even with the domination against their competition in the regular season, Wahconah was too much. The Brownies struggled to move the ball on offense, and while they did well on defense, they could not keep Wahconah from scoring.

DUSTIN, from page 14

cult and challenging. The senior harrier for the Brownies did have a lead at one point during the race. She had a lead during the first mile of the race, which was mostly uphill. But Northampton’s Mariel Lutz, who had a great season herself, closed the gap and was able to overtake Dustin, finishing at 19:59. Dustin would finish in second place with a tie of 20:35. “I’m not pleased with it,” said Dustin, who has been nursing stress fractures for several weeks. “I went into it knowing and capable of taking the win, but unfortunately it did not play out as planned.” Dustin believes she had an off day on the course. “Everyone is bound to have off days,” said Dustin. “It was just a coincidence that mine happened to be at Western Mass. I did the best I could, given how I was feeling. I’ll just have to deal with the loss and move on.” Moving on does include a trip to the state race for Dustin. The All-State Championship meet will be held at Franklin Park on Saturday. She will be the sole representative from Agawam, which did not place at the Western Mass. meet. Dustin says she is feeling all right from the race. “I was hurting pretty bad after the race,” said Dustin. “But I have been feeling better since then.” She practiced Tuesday and is scheduled to run today in advanced of Saturday’s meet. “I’m hoping to redeem myself a bit from Western Mass.,” said Dustin. “I’m resting up my shins this week.”

SOCCER, from page 14

36th; Hunter Chapdelaine was wide right with 40 seconds to go; Keene was stopped by LaBranche with three seconds to play. Through the first half, Agawam had a 7-2 edge on shots. Keene had four of them. He wasted no time in the second half, sending one through the crease in the second minute. In the fourth, LaBranche came out for a stop on Keene. Following a break by Fuehr in the fifth, Keene hit the post from 8 yards in the sixth. He would get one past LaBranche in the ninth minute, 8:03. He had a free kick in front some 12 yards away a and his shot was just to the left of the wall. The goal made it 3-0 and Agawam was taking charge. It was also a hat trick for Brodie Keene. Keene again was in on LaBranche in the 17th minute with a shot wide right. In the 19th minute, Chris Tracy sent one from the side. In the 20th Rita had one stopped by Sours and in the 21st Chapdelaine was on goal. That was the best sustained pressure put on by Minnechaug in the game. Sciartelli was on goal in the 25th and wide right in the 27th. Nick Hanchette was on goal from 15 in the 28th minute. Desaulnier got a free kick in the 29th and in the 31st Goonan was on goal. The 31st minute was winding down, when Agawam got a break. Tim Regnier was just inside the box when he sent a pass to Mateus who was 10 yards away. He put the ball just inside the left post. There was 9:05 to play and Agawam had a 4-0 lead. Minnechaug had a few opportunities in the 33rd with Zach Peters; in the 36th Robert O’Neill but nothing came to fruition.. Keene, going for his fourth goal was stopped by LaBranche in the 29th minute, as was Kris Page with 39 seconds to play. The Brownies now take on the number three team, Westside and if they win, it’s on to the finals and a possible date with top seeded and undefeated Amherst. West Springfield is the defending Western Mass champion. Sours needed to make just seven saves. The Brownies had 18 shots on the Minnechaug goal. Nate Rosenthal is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.



Agawam’s Nick Hanchette (20) tries to reach in front of Minnechaug’s Sean Baker (21) to handle the ball.



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Agawam’s Kris Page (14) slides to play the ball in front of Minnechaug’s Hunter Chapdelaine (44).

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Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Country Journal • Chicopee Register
The Journal Register • The Ludlow Register • Quaboag Current • The Sentinel Shopping Guide • Southwick Suffield News
The Holyoke Sun • Wilbraham-Hampden Times • The Town Common • Town Reminder • Ware River News

Obituaries & Church News

CHURCH DIRECTORY

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
745 Main St., Agawam
786-7111
Interim Pastor: Rev. Tom Howells
Agawam1@verizon.net
www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m.
Communion on the first Sunday of the month
Church school is in session and fellow-ship coffee hour follows the service.
“A place to call home ~ A people to call family”

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
459 Mill St., Feeding Hills
413-786-4174
Pastor: Ken Blanchard
email agawamumc@gmail.com
agawamworship.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Communion on the first and third Sunday of the month.
Coffee and fellowship hour immediately after worship. Handicap accessible at front entrance.
Worship At Country Estates Nursing Home: 2nd and 5th Thursdays each month at 11 a.m.
Heritage East, 1st Mondays, 11 a.m.
Heritage North, 1st Tuesdays 11 a.m.
Heritage Woods, 1st Mondays 11 a.m.

AUMC cooks and serves dinner for the Samaritan Inn homeless shelter on the second Saturday of the month.

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
580 Main St., Agawam
(413) 789-2930
www.bethany-ag.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 9am & 10:45am
Christian Education offered during both services.
Nightlife Contemporary Service: Sunday 6 p.m.
Wednesday Family Night: 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION
50 Maple St., Agawam
(413) 304-2313
churchofredemptionministries.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Summer Schedule
Sunday Service at 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH
370 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam
(413) 786-1681
www.jesussaves.7@comcast.com
Website: www.faithbible-church.org
Pastor: Rick Donofrio

SERVICES
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer
Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
“An Open and Affirming Congregation.”
21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
P.O. Box 264
(413) 786-5061
fhccucc@comcast.net
Pastor: The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
Church School 10:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.
Infant and child care provided.
Handicap accessible.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
760 Main St., Agawam
Agawambc@localnet.com
www.firstbaptistagawam.org

SUNDAY SERVICES
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (grades K - 5) following Children’s Message until 10:45
Youth Study time (grades 6+) following sermon until 10:45
Coffee & Conversation following worship every Sunday

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
152 South Westfield St.
Feeding Hills
789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES
Men’s & Women’s Bible Study Groups and Children’s Sunday School Worship Service at 10 a.m. Children’s Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service. Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the service.

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH
522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
Feeding Hills, MA
478-9484
David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Familly Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH
1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
(413) 786-8200
www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org
Fr. Steven Amo

WEEKLY SERVICES
Lord’s Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.
Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

ST. DAVID’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.
786-6133
saintdavid@comcast.net.
www.stdavidsgawam.org.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Holy Eu-charist

ST. JOHN’S CHURCH
823 Main St., Agawam
786-8105
info@stjohnangelistchurch.org.
www.stjohnagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturdays: 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to Labor Day)
Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., Latin Mass 12:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: Fridays, 7:15 to 8 a.m., Saturdays, 4 to 4:45 p.m.
Weekdays: Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8 a.m.
Thursday: Communion Service



DEATH NOTICES & SERVICES

Bessette, Donna R.
Died Nov. 8, 2014
Private Burial
Agawam Currn-Jones
Funeral Home

Hathorne, Melissa M.
Died Nov. 2, 2014
Funeral Nov. 7, 2014
Colonial Forastiere
Funeral Home
Agawam

Lapienski, Chester S.
Died Oct. 31, 2014
Private Funeral
Agawam Funeral
Home

Remillard, Aime J.
Died Nov. 1, 2014
Burial in Quebec
West Springfield
Curran-Jones
Funeral Home

Turcotte, Clifford W.
Died Nov. 6, 2014
Funeral Nov. 11, 2014
Colonial Forastiere
Funeral Home
Agawam

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Catholic Women to meet

The Catholic Women’s Club will meet Monday, Dec. 8. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the parish center at St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam. In place of a gift exchange this year, members are asked to bring a food store gift card from Stop & Shop, Geissler’s Supermarket or Big Y, which will be distributed as needed.

A special Christmas program performed by Ritchie Mitnick and singer Ethel Lee will round out the evening’s events.

Upcoming events at Hope Community Church

Hope Community Church, 152 S. West-field St., Feeding Hills, has announced the following upcoming events.

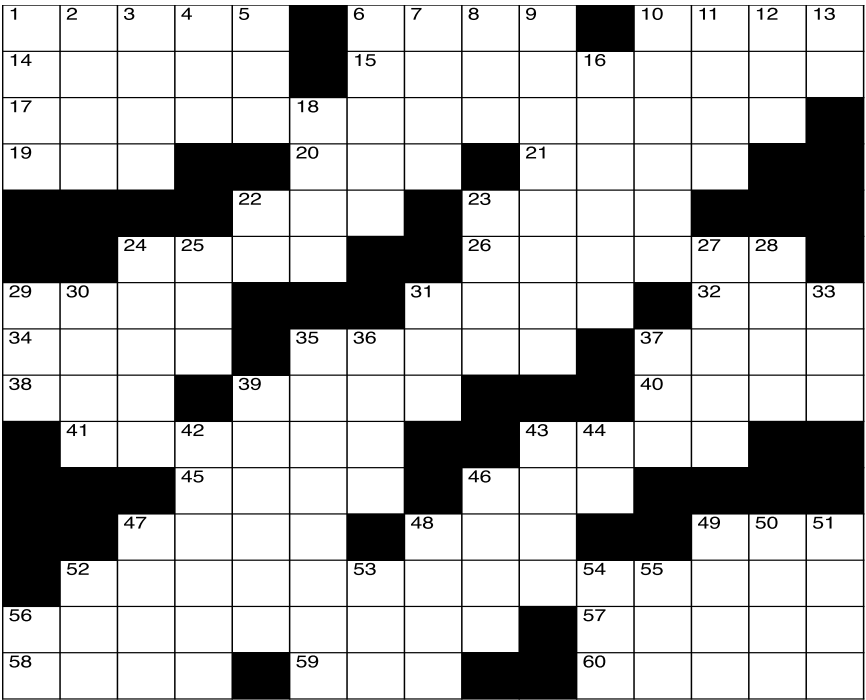
Friday, Nov. 21: Junior Youth Group for children in grades 3 through 6.

Sunday, Nov. 23: 11:30 a.m., After the service, a presentation during discussion time by the Freemans on their ministry, “Be-tween Bridges.”

Wednesday, Dec. 3: 6:30 p.m., Women’s Advent Service

Wednesday, Dec. 31: 11 p.m., Christmas Eve service

The small groups and Sunday school classes begun. For more information on all events and services, visit hopechurchaga-wam.org.



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - Domestic cat
 - Picasso’s mistress Dora
 - Bounces over water
 - Calculators
 - Jeopardized
 - Voice of Dory
 - Guided
 - Ribonucleic acid (abbr.)
 - Evenings prior to
 - French river into Ghent
 - Inspires wonder
 - Sacred bull of Egypt
 - Am. sable
 - Liquid body substances
 - Singer Nat King
 - Expression of disgust
 - Oil cartel
 - Mentums
 - City of Danao
- island

 - Place of refuge
 - Fancy ottoman
 - 20th Hebrew letter
 - Alleviating
 - Tangles
 - London gallery
 - Pouchlike structure
 - Citizen of Copenhagen
 - Swiss river
 - Denotes three
 - Treatment for addicts
 - Inheritable by rules
 - Stalin’s predecessor
 - N. Mexico artist colony
 - Initials of 1st American woman in space
 - Afrikaans
- CLUES DOWN**

 - Far east weight unit
 - Competent
- Bare or unadorned
 - Bridge building degree
 - Other side of yang (Chinese)
 - Personal manners
 - Am. Mountain Guide Assoc.
 - Imitate
 - Acts of reclamation
 - Most critical
 - Brews
 - Foot (Latin)
 - South Dakota
 - Hero-worship
 - Removes moisture
 - NY Hamptons location (initials)
 - Egyptian god of life
 - Sporting venue
 - Campaign funding group
 - Plural of 30 down
 - Captures
 - Turf
 - Fencing sword
- Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
 - Expression of bafflement
 - Frames of reference
 - Very large
 - Old TV screen tube
 - Keyboard instruments
 - Governments
 - Fashion designer Jacobs
 - Carrier’s invention
 - Cruise
 - Art ____ style of design
 - From a distance
 - Rock singer Turner
 - Churn
 - Hotels
 - Genetic info carrier
 - Irritate
 - Also on the option key
 - Steepled beverage
 - Indicates position

Business

CUMBERLAND FARMS SUPPORTS PARKS



Submitted photo

Employees at Cumberland Farms on Suffield Street in Agawam recently presented a check to Agawam Park and Recreation Director Chris Sparks and Mayor Richard A. Cohen, center. The check represented proceeds from a fundraiser held at Cumberland Farms to benefit the town's Park & Recreation Department.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Submitted photo

The B's Hive, located at 289 Springfield St., Agawam, recently celebrated its first anniversary. State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, right, was on hand to present a citation from the House of Representatives to the owner, Beth Atwood, center.

Legal Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
October 20, 2014
Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on Monday, **November 24, 2014 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Salmar Realty, LLC. which is seeking to amend a previously granted special permit (Case #1921, dated December 9, 2013) to allow for an outdoor patio at the premises identified as 385-389 Main Street.
Doreen Prouty Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
11/6,11/13/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD14C0173CA
In the matter of:
Marcus Andru Headley and Camille Alyce Headley
Of: Agawam, MA
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
To all persons interested in petition described:
A petition has been presented by **Ida Williams** on behalf of **Camille Alyce Headley** requesting that: **Marcus Andru Headley** and **Camille Alyce Headley** be allowed to change his/her/

their name as follows:
Marcus Andru Williams
Camille Alyce Williams
If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at: Springfield on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 12/02/2014.
WITNESS, Hon. Anne M Geoffrion, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 4, 2014
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/13/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD12P1405GD
In the interests of:
Nancy Whitley of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Heritage Hall West** of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:
Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.
The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appoint-

ment. The original petition is on file with the court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 12/01/2014. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Anne M Geoffrion, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 03, 2014
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/13/14

New-look Friendly's offers deal

Friendly's in Agawam, at 19 Springfield St., will celebrate its refreshed appearance and updated menu with a \$2 original burger and 10 ounce junior Fribble combo from Tuesday, Nov. 18, through Sunday, Nov. 23. Friendly's on Springfield Street, which originally opened its doors in 1957, is one of the many locations to take part in the Wilbraham-based company's initiative to bring its brand back to its roots.

Author discusses 'Star Crossed'

The Agawam Public Library will host Bette Isacoff, author of "Star Crossed," Monday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m., as part of its continuing "AuthorTalk" series.
"Star Crossed" speaks to young men and women considering an interfaith relationship. It challenges the old order embraced by their parents and it is a nostalgic look back to a simpler time.
When Bette met Richard in 1968, he was a 17-year-old Jewish kid. She was a 21-year-old Catholic college senior, doing a student teaching practicum at his high school. They were engaged seven weeks later.
This couple faced four challenges to their impending marriage: religion, age, education level and the times — Jews and Catholic rarely married "outside." But the harder their families tried to pull them apart, the tighter they clung together. They have been together over 45 years.
To register for this event, call 413-789-1550 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

People of All Ages Read Newspapers

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF AGAWAM OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES NOTICE OF TAX TAKING TO THE OWNERS OF THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on Friday, November 28, 2014 at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at the Tax Collector's Office, Agawam City Hall, pursuant to the provisions of the general Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE FOR THE City of Agawam the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.
To Avoid Tax Taking Please Call: 786-0400 for information on total amounts due including interest and expenses Ext. 8218 Collector's Office Ext. 8712 Laurel Placzek, Collector-Treasurer Ext. 8710 AnnMarie Hartmann, Assistant Collector

NASCSEMBENI MARY,
LAND & BUILDING located at 7 SPRING ST in AGAWAM, containing .250 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map I17120002, recorded at HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 4854-173. Tax for FY-2013 \$1,232.68 and FY-2014 \$632.46.
BUYNICKI GARY E, BUYNICKI SHARON R,
LAND & BUILDING located at 127 MAPLE ST in AGAWAM, containing .184 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map I16180010, recorded at HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 16336-36. Tax for FY-2014 \$155.58.

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-
Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.
Call for your Appointment
1-888-798-8528
©2012 HHM, Inc. 304

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legal notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.
Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Girl Scouts ‘Fill the Truck’ to earn Bronze

Agawam Girl Scout Troop 11085 will hold a “Fill the Truck” event Sunday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the parking lot of Geissler’s Supermarket, 830 Suffield St., Agawam.

The public is invited to bring non-perishable food or empty bottles and cans. All proceeds and donations will benefit the Open Pantry as the girls work toward their Bronze award.



Send a child something special this Christmas – a personalized letter from Santa!

Brought to you by Turley Publications, this memory of a lifetime is a special opportunity to personalize a child’s Christmas holiday!



They’ll also receive an autographed photo along with a special gift.

Simply cut out the coupon below, fill in your payment information and enclose your check for \$9.95.* The letter will be delivered with the autographed photo and special gift just in time for Christmas! *Quantities are limited, so don’t delay, order your gift today!*

ONLY ONE NAME PER LETTER PLEASE.
\$9.95 for the first one, \$8.95 for each additional. Please include phone number. Make copies of this form as needed. Expires 12-25-14.

CHILD’S NAME(S) _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED:

☐ CHECK ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP DATE: _____ 3 DIGIT CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

MAIL THIS COUPON TO:
Santa at Turley, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or call 413-283-8393 or email: cgriswold@turley.com,
(Subject: Santa) for immediate assistance.

Quantities are limited. Turley Publications reserves the right to end offer at any time. Payment will be returned if offer expires due to limited quantity being sold out or multiple names per letter. Sales are based on a first come first serve basis.

IN THE PINK



Braman Termite & Pest Elimination of Agawam participated in Market Mentors LLC’s annual “Pink Day” on Oct. 24 to benefit Rays of Hope. Across the region, about two dozen businesses raised a total of \$5,000 in corporate and personal donations to present to Baystate Health Foundation, and participants wore pink to work in an effort to raise awareness for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Announce Your Recent Engagement or Wedding



IN THE WINTER 2015 ISSUE OF THE

Bridal GUIDE

Send your photo and wedding date to:
BRIDAL GUIDE, Attention: Beth Baker, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or e-mail bbaker@turley.com and be sure to put Bridal Photo in subject line.
If you would like your photos returned please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.
Photo must be received by December 1, 2014.



DANA WARE
& IAN LUKSHA
South Hadley
Wedding: Sept. 13, 2014

Please include this information with photo:

Name of Bride: _____

Bride’s Residence: _____

Name of Groom: _____

Groom’s Residence: _____

Date of Wedding: _____



SARAH RICHARDSON
& RYAN BALICKI
St. Mary’s Church, Ware
Sept. 7, 2013

Buzzin' from Town to Town



Classifieds

Turley Publications' Community Marketplace ♦ www.turley.com ♦ Call us toll free at 1-800-824-6548

For Sale



A public service announcement presented by your community paper
ANTIQUE AND PERIOD chairs – Restored with new woven seats – Many styles and weaves available. Call (413)267-9680.

SOLID MAPLE DINING room set, 8 chairs, 8 ft. table with 2 leaves. Very good condition. \$1,000 or BO. (413)532-5443.

Estate Sale

INDOOR ESTATE SALE Nov. 15-16, 7am-4pm. 20 Green Ave., Belchertown. Trailer fruit sprayer, lawn equipment, household items and much more!

Antiques

EASY STREET ANTIQUES. Buying one item or entire estates. Buying antique & vintage glassware, pottery, Hummels, jewelry, coins, watches, military, toys, Legos, hunting, fishing, stringed instruments, books, tools, & more. Call today. www.ezstreetantiques.com or (413)626-8603.

Firewood

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$175.00.
Seasoned cut & split \$250.00
All hardwood.
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083.

Gift Ideas

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Miscellaneous

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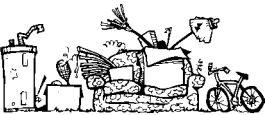
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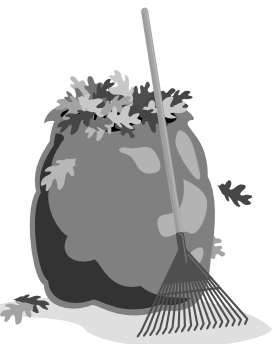
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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

LUDLOW DUPLEX 3 BR, 1.5 bath, includes stove, refrigerator.. dishwasher, central a/c, central vac., w/d hook-up, natural gas heat. 1st, last, security \$975/mo. No pets. (413)583-3164.

ONE BEDROOM APT. near Mt. Holyoke College. appliances, washer, dryer included, large yard, mountain view. Great neighborhood. Call Elizabeth 413-575-0067.

RENT TO OWN OPPORTUNITY (West Warren) OPEN HOUSE Sat. Nov.15, 12-3 \$1400/mo. info/pics: rushrl6@gmail.com

For Rent

PALMER 1BR - Quiet Secure Country Location. Locked Storage & Laundry in Basement. K/DR Combo - LR-Full Bath. Nice Layout. No Smok/Pets. 1st/last/sec. \$700.00 Breton Est. 413-283-6940

PALMER AREA/ THORNDIKE remodeled one BR apts \$625 stove, refrigerator, w/d hook-up, off-street parking. NO PETS. Deposits. Messages (413)896-2513.

PALMER ONE & 2 bedroom updated apts. Heat/hot water included, near MA Pike, off-street parking, laundry, appliances. \$835 & \$860 (413)596-8208. **WILBRAHAM** in-law apt \$900.

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WARE- 2 TOWNHOUSE APTS. SPACIOUS, SUNNY 3 BR \$800 & \$850 and plus utilities, w/d hook-up, storage. **Also Beautiful 2 BR** apt. \$700. No smoking, no pets. Credit check/references (413)320-5784.

Vacation Rentals

WARM WEATHER IS year round in Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. \$3500. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

Storage

GATED OUTDOOR STORAGE for boats, RV's, campers, or large equipment. For details call (413)967-4721 Monday-Friday 9am- 5pm.

Auto For Sale

2010 MERCEDES-BENZ 4 Matic 1 year remaining on warrantee 35,000 miles, White, w/ Tan Interior, Black Glass Top w/ Sunroof New Brakes, Excell. Condition Asking \$28,500 (413)537-2949

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Fax: (413) 786-8457

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Barre, MA 01005
(978) 355-4000
Fax: (978) 355-6274

QUABOAG CURRENT

80 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
(413) 967-3505
Fax: (413) 967-6009

THE CHICOPEE REGISTER

(413) 592-3599
Fax: (413) 592-3568

COUNTRY JOURNAL

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Fax: (413) 667-3011

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138 College Street, Suite 2
So. Hadley, MA 01075
(413) 536-5333
Fax: (413) 536-5334

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2341 Boston Rd.
Wilbraham, MA 01095
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Deadlines:

The deadline for all print classified ads in the Quabbin and Suburban Zones is Friday at noon for publication the following week. The deadline for the Hill Towns Zone is Monday at noon. All online ads will be published for 7 days including the corresponding print editions.

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Saturday, Nov. 15

A HOLIDAY CRAFT FEST will be held at Faith United Church, 52 Sumner Ave., Springfield from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the perfect opportunity to support local craftspeople and get a head start on holiday shopping. A luncheon will be available for purchase from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the mission projects of the church.

Sunday, Nov. 16

THE AGAWAM LIONS CLUB will hold its Annual Harvest Breakfast from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at the American Legion Hall, 478 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$2.50 for children under 12 and are available at Southgate Liquors on Suffield Street, at On the Hill Restaurant in Feeding Hills and at the door.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a "mini tour" at 1 p.m., led by Adele Gladstone-Gilbert, D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts, focusing on "Dutch Treat: Dutch and Flemish Paintings, From Surreal to Sublime." The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free, onsite parking is available.

Monday, Nov. 17

THE AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY will host Bette Isacoff, author of *Star Crossed*, at 7 p.m., as part of its continuing "AuthorTalk" series. *Star Crossed* speaks to young men and women considering an interfaith relationship. To register for this event, call 413-789-1550 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERTS at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature Mary Brown Bonacci, soprano, and David Garrido Cid on piano, at 10:30 a.m. Free refreshments are provided after the performances. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield 01138.

Thursday, Nov. 20

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Native American Fantasy: An Exploration of Art and Music" featuring Jack P. Brin, professor emeritus, WNEU, at 12:15 p.m. in the Museum of Fine Arts at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

Saturday, Nov. 22

A HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR sponsored by the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the senior center. Two floors of vendors will be there and Carol, the senior center chef, will be preparing her ever-popular soup and meatballs.

ST. JOHN'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the parish center, 833 Main St., Agawam. The bazaar will feature Christmas wreaths, decorations, a bake sale, candy booth and a jewelry booth. Snacks will be available for purchase.

WEST SPRINGFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 800 Amostown Road, will hold its annual Fall Vendor, Craft Fair and Pie Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair offers handmade and professionally crafted items, a variety of homemade pies for Thanksgiving and more. The church is handicapped accessible. Parking is free. For more information, call 413-788-0304.

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPARD, 214 Elm St., West Springfield, will hold its annual Shepherd's Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring local vendors and crafters. Pies for Thanksgiving will also be available for purchase as well as a flea market and gifts for Christmas. For more information, call 413-734-1976.

Sunday, Nov. 23

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a "mini tour" at 1 p.m., led by Peter Benjamin, Wood Museum of Spring-

field History, highlighting "Row, Row, Row Your Boat: the Past and Future of Recreational Boating on the Connecticut River." The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

Thursday, Nov. 27

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD PARISH ASSOCIATION and the West Springfield Rotary will host the 33rd Annual Phil Coburn Community Thanksgiving Dinner from noon to 2 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church on Westfield Street. It is open to the public.

Monday, Dec. 1

THE AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY will host Suzanne Strempek-Shea, author of *Make A Wish But Not for Money*, at 7 p.m., as part of its continuing "AuthorTalk" series. Her book tells the story of an unemployed palm reader who plies her trade in a dying shopping mall. To register for this event, call 413-789-1550 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Friday, Dec. 5

Fitness First Health & Fitness Center, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo is required. All

donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children.

ONGOING

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BLOOD CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Agawam Senior Center conference room. A light dinner is served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.



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Community Thanksgiving Dinner open to area residents

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The West Springfield Parish Association and the West Springfield Rotary will host the 33rd annual Phil Coburn Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 27, from noon to 2 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church on Westfield Street.

Agawam residents wanting a meal delivered may call Christine at the senior center at 413-821-0605, ext. 2. To volunteer to deliver meals, call Mike or Debbie at 413-391-0407. Turkey donations are needed. To donate a turkey or a ham, call Barbara at 413-733-8682. Monetary donations are

welcome and may be mailed to Carol Goulet, 40 Prince Ave., W. Springfield, MA 01089. Volunteers will be cooking at the church, peeling vegetables and decorating the hall Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 9 a.m. and are in need of help. Anyone that is available is asked to call 413-733-8682.

Senior Center Friends to hold Thanksgiving pie sale

Orders are being accepted for the Thanksgiving pie sale sponsored by the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center. Early orders are encouraged, as only 40 pies will be sold this year. The cost for chocolate cream pies is \$10; pumpkin pies, \$9; meat pies, \$12; apple pies, \$12. The deadline to place orders is Wednesday, Nov. 19. Pies will be available for pickup at the senior center Wednesday, Nov. 26.



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